

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of February 24, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-13 are pending in the current application.

The Examiner objects to the drawings, requesting that Figure 4 include the label "Related Art." Applicant submits a marked-up version of Figure 4 which indicates the inclusion of the legend "Related Art". The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C § 112, first paragraph. Applicant amends claim 1 to clearly recite the features of Applicant's invention. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

In addition, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection, noting that the feature of "a substrate of only a single layer" as recited in claim 1 is not new matter. There is abundant discussion in the specification and drawings of a substrate of only a single layer. For example in the discussion of Figures 5A and 5b, Applicant's specification describes, "a photoresist pattern formed on a substrate 1" (Specification, page 10, lines 21-23). Figures 5A and 5B clearly show that the substrate 1 is only 1 layer. Applicant further submits that the wave lines at the sides of Figures 3 and 4 simply denote that the layers depicted between them extend further in the horizontal direction. This is the commonly understood meaning of these drafting symbols. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, they do not indicate more layers of the substrate, rather they merely indicate there is more of the layers that are already shown.

Claim 1 is allowable at least for the reason that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including "preparing a substrate of only a single layer ...etching a portion of the substrate to form a groove beneath a top surface of the substrate using the photoresist pattern as a mask; depositing a second metal on the substrate, a height of the second metal being smaller than a depth of the groove". The related art and the references cited by the Examiner throughout the prosecution of this case do not disclose or suggest at least these features.

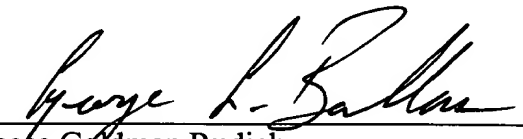
In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference. Claims 2-13 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph be withdrawn.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner deem that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: May 24, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWINGS

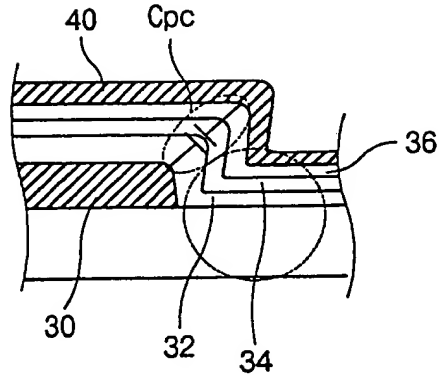
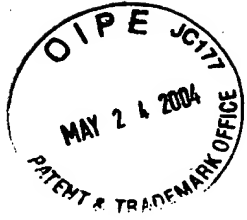


Fig 3
(Related Art)

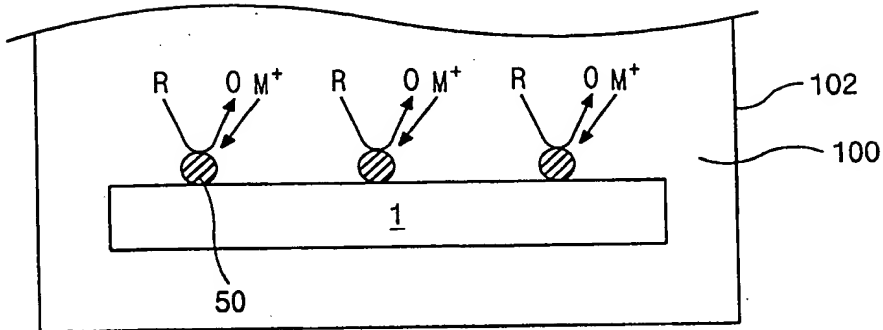


Fig 4
(Related Art)